



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

November 19, 2003

RE: UNITED STATES v. JORGE LOUIS GONZALEZ

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the arrest of Jorge Louis Gonzalez, age 30, of 16 Amistad Lane, Buffalo, NY, who was charged with sending an e-mail threat to bomb Buffalo City Hall, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). This offense carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).**

Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr., Chief of the Office's Anti-Terrorism Unit, stated that Mr. Gonzalez was charged in a Complaint with sending the e-mail threat, in someone else's name, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation website in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hochul said that upon receiving the threat, the Complaint details that the FBI was able to track the origination point of the threat to a Buffalo area computer. Thereafter, FBI counter-terrorism investigators identified the defendant as

the user of the computer at the time the message was sent. Use of the internet to communicate a false bomb threat constitutes a violation of federal criminal law, Mr. Hochul advised.

United States Attorney Battle stated that this Complaint demonstrates that the Government will vigorously investigate and prosecute those who send threatening communications via the internet, mail, or any other medium of commerce. Mr. Battle pointed out that terrorist threats have in the past year caused serious disruption of both public and private services and facilities. Mr. Battle also observed that while investigators were pursuing leads in this case, which proved in the end to be a hoax, the investigators' time was diverted from pursuing other, more serious terrorism matters, which itself poses a danger to the community.

Jorge Louis Gonzalez will be appearing today at 11:30 a.m. before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott for arraignment.

The Complaint was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahern.

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